

II. Listing of the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method for correcting spondylolisthesis from a lateral approach, comprising:

removing an intervertebral disc to define an intervertebral space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, the first and second vertebrae being in a spondylosed relationship to one another;

laterally inserting a first insertion member into the first vertebra such that the first insertion member does not extend within the intervertebral space;

laterally inserting a second insertion member into the second vertebra;

engaging a connecting member with the first and second insertion members to span the connecting member between the first and second vertebrae; and

applying a rotating force to the connecting member to rotate the first and second vertebrae relative to one another.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising preparing the first and second vertebrae for receiving a prosthetic joint and inserting the prosthetic joint into the intervertebral space.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first and second vertebrae are prepared by laterally forming slots in the first and second vertebrae.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the slot formed in the first vertebra is offset from the slot formed in the second vertebra.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the prosthetic joint comprises offset, laterally-extending keels for fitting to the slots formed in the first and second vertebrae.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the insertion members are bone screws.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the bone screws are bi-cortical.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the bone screws are uni-cortical.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the connecting member is a rod.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the rotating force is applied via a rotatable wrench.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of correcting spondylolisthesis between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

engaging a first member with a sidewall of the first vertebra;
engaging a second member with the second vertebra;
positioning a connecting member between the first member and the second member;
coupling the connecting member to the first member and the second member; and
rotating the connecting member to move the first vertebra and the second vertebra relative to one another to reduce the spondylolisthesis therebetween.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said engaging a first member includes inserting a screw into the first vertebra through the sidewall and said engaging a second member includes inserting a screw into the second vertebra.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including the step of removing at least a portion of an intervertebral disc between the first vertebra and the second vertebra and inserting a spacer between the first vertebra and the second vertebra.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the spacer is a device permitting articulation between the first vertebra and the second vertebra.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the spacer includes a fusion device.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further including after said step of rotating, inserting an implant between the first vertebra and the second vertebra to substantially maintain the reduction of the spondylolisthesis.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said steps of engaging the first vertebra and engaging said second vertebra is performed from a substantially lateral approach to the spine.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said step of inserting a spacer between the first vertebra and the second vertebra is performed from a substantially lateral approach to the spine.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further including coupling a tool to the connecting member from a substantially lateral approach to the spine and rotating the tool from the lateral approach to cause rotation of the connecting member.